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Released: November 3, 2008

Vol. 28 No. 21

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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2008**

Red meat production in **Colorado** during September 2008 totaled 177.8 million pounds, up 13 percent from 157.7 million pounds a year earlier but 2 percent below August 2008 production. Cattle kill during September was up 13 percent from a year earlier to 205.2 head and the average live weight increased 7 pounds to 1,329 per head. Hog slaughter, at 1,100 head, was down 100 head from a year earlier and the average live weight of 253 pounds was 6 pounds below the previous year. Accumulated red meat production for the January-September period this year, at 1.64 billion pounds, slightly higher than last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.27 billion pounds in September, up 11 percent from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in September 2007. Beef production, at 2.27 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.89 million head, up 8 percent from September 2007. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,298 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.8 million pounds, 37 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 87,500 head, up 56 percent from September 2007. The average live weight was down 33 pounds from last year, at 251 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.97 billion pounds, up 13 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.96 million head, up 14 percent from September 2007. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 266 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was up 6 percent from September 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,000 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, up 1 pound from September a year ago.

January to September 2008 commercial red meat production was 37.7 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 9 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	January-September	
				2007	2008
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	157.7	180.7	177.8	1,388.4	1,642.7
United States:	3,863.6	4,097.4	4,270.4	35,707.6	37,662.5
Beef	2,094.7	2,268.5	2,269.8	19,687.0	20,179.6
Veal	9.4	11.2	12.8	105.7	105.1
Pork	1,746.0	1,804.4	1,973.5	15,779.7	17,247.3
Lamb & Mutton .	13.6	13.3	14.4	135.2	130.6

**CATTLE ON FEED
OCTOBER 1, 2008**

COLORADO

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in **Colorado** feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 870,000 head as of October 1, 2008. The latest inventory was up 13 percent from September 1, 2008 but down 7 percent from the 940,000 on feed on October 1, 2007. The inventory included 515,000 steers and steer calves, down 11 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 350,000 head, was down 3 percent from last year while cows and bulls were unchanged at 5,000 head. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 150,000 head of fed cattle during September 2008. This was 9 percent below August 2008 marketings of 165,000 head and 6 percent below a year ago. An estimated 255,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during September, unchanged from a year ago but 34 percent above the August 2008 placements of 190,000. Of the number placed in September, 8 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 12 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 63 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for September, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from September 2007 and August 2008.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on October 1, 2008. The inventory was 5 percent below October 1, 2007 and 9 percent below October 1, 2006. The inventory included 6.51 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.85 million head, down 5 percent from 2007. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.28 million, 6 percent below 2007 but 2 percent above 2006.

Net placements were 2.23 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 445,000, 600-699 pounds were 415,000, 700-799 pounds were 541,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 880,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.81 million, 7 percent above 2007 and 3 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 51,000 during September, 6 percent below 2007 and 25 percent below 2006.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000 Plus Capacity, Sept. 1 to Oct 1, 2007-2008**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 head			
On Feed Sept. 1	850	770	10,302	9,997
Placements During Sept.				
< 600 pounds	35	20	610	445
600 - 699 Pounds	40	30	505	415
700 - 799 Pounds	60	45	565	541
800 Plus Pounds	120	160	735	880
Marketings During Sept.	160	150	1,696	1,812
Other Disap. During Sept.	5	5	54	94
On Feed Oct 1.	940	870	10,967	10,415
Steers & Steer Calves	575	515	6,832	6,513
Heifers & Heifer Calves	360	350	4,070	3,848
Cows & Bulls	5	5	65	54

**MILK PRODUCTION
SEPTEMBER 2008**

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado dairy herds produced 241 million pounds of milk during September 2008, up 13 million pounds from last September's production, but down 10 million pounds from August's production. The average number of cows, at 130,000, remained unchanged from last month, and up from 10,000 cows from the previous year. The average milk per cow for the month of September in Colorado was 1,850 pounds per cow, down from 1,930 pounds per cow in August and 50 pounds per cow lower than 2007. Colorado is fourth in the nation in milk production per cow.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Milk production in the **23 major States** during September totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from September 2007. August revised production at 14.6 billion pounds, was up 1.7 percent from August 2007. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,652 pounds for September, 7 pounds above September 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 118,000 head more than September 2007, but 8,000 head less than August 2008.

Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 46.8 billion pounds, up 1.6 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.28 million head, 118,000 head more than the same period last year.

Colorado and U. S. Milk Production, September, 2007-08

Item	Unit	2007	2008
Colorado:			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u>	1,000 head	120	130
Production per cow <u>2/</u>	Pounds	1,900	1,850
Production <u>2/</u>	Mil. lbs.	228	241
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u>	1,000 head	8,341	8,459
Production per cow <u>2/</u>	Pounds	1,645	1,652
Production <u>2/</u>	Mil. lbs.	13,718	13,976

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION
SEPTEMBER 2008**

Colorado laying flocks produced 88 million eggs during September 2008 compared with 83 million during the same month a year earlier and 95 million during August of this year. The average number of layers for the month, at 3.67 million, was down 88,000 from September 2007 and down 126,000 from August 2008. The rate of lay for September 2008 was 2,400 eggs per 100 layers compared with 2,210 during September 2007 and 2,505 in August 2008.

United States egg production totaled 7.34 billion during September 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.28 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 990 million were broiler-type and 65 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2008 averaged 334 million, down 2 percent from last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,194 eggs, up 1 percent from September 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2008 totaled 333 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 333 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2008, averaged 73.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from October 1, 2007.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES OCTOBER 2008

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 145 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 9 points (5.8 percent) from September. The Crop Index is down 17 points (9.8 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (3.8 percent). Producers received lower prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle and higher prices for sweet corn, broccoli, lettuce, and eggs. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of soybeans, corn, cottonseed, and cotton offset decreased marketings of milk, wheat, sweet corn, and grapes.

The October index is 157, down 9.8 percent from September but 5.4 percent above October 2007. The October all wheat price, at \$5.79 per bushel, is down \$1.64 from September and \$1.86 below October 2007. The corn price, at \$3.99 per bushel, is down \$1.03 from last month but 70 cents above October 2007. Sorghum grain, at \$5.75 per cwt, is \$2.46 below September and 43 cents below October last year. The soybean price, at \$8.66 per bushel, decreased \$2.04 from September but is 30 cents above October 2007. The all potato price, at \$7.86 per cwt, is down 93 cents from September but up \$2.18 from last October. The all dry bean price, at \$33.80 per cwt, is down \$3.00 from the previous month but \$7.90 above October 2007.

The October Livestock & Products Index at 128, is 3.8 percent below last month and 2.3 percent less than October 2007. The October hog price, at \$50.70 per cwt, is down \$2.00 from September but \$8.30 higher than a year ago. The October beef cattle price of \$88.60 per cwt is down \$5.80 from last month and \$2.30 lower than October 2007. The October all milk price of \$17.60 per cwt is down 60 cents from last month and \$3.80 from October 2007.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2007		2008	
	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
	Percent			
Prices Received	140	141	154	145
Prices Paid.....	162	163	191	188
Ratio 1/.....	87	86	81	77

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

Colorado's mid-October prices for most crop items averaged higher than a year ago except for wheat and other hay. All livestock averaged lower than a year ago. Wheat, at \$5.51 per bushel, averaged \$1.40 below October 2007 and \$1.13 below September of this year. Corn averaged \$3.80 per bushel in mid-October this year, up 37 cents from the previous year but down 70 cents from last month. Potato prices decreased \$1.20 per cwt from last month to \$19.30 per cwt but averaged \$11.85 above the October 2007 average of \$7.45 per cwt.

Alfalfa hay prices at \$165.00 per ton, remained unchanged from last month but were \$30.00 above a year ago. Other hay prices, at \$130.00 per ton, decreased \$5.00 per ton from September 2008 but remained unchanged from a year ago. Steer and heifer prices were at \$95.00 per cwt and averaged \$9.00 per cwt below last month and \$13.00 from a year ago. Cows, at \$47.60 per cwt, were down \$7.60 from last month and averaged \$1.30 below October 2007. Calves averaged \$102.00 for mid-October, \$1.00 below last month and down \$16.00 per cwt from a year ago. The October all milk price of \$17.60 was 90 cents below last month and was \$4.30 below a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Oct. 2007	Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008
		Dollars		
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	6.91	6.64	5.51
Corn.....	Bu.	3.43	4.50	3.80
Barley (All).....	Bu.	3.44	5.43	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	7.45	20.50	19.30
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	27.80	38.30	40.00
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	135.00	165.00	165.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	130.00	135.00	130.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	107.00	103.00	94.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	108.00	104.00	95.00
Cows.....	Cwt	48.90	55.20	47.60
Calves.....	Cwt	118.00	103.00	102.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	29.00	30.00	3/
Lambs.....	Cwt	95.00	99.00	3/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	21.90	18.50	17.60
United States				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	7.65	7.43	5.79
Corn.....	Bu.	3.29	5.02	3.99
Soybeans	Bu.	8.36	10.70	8.66
Barley (All).....	Bu.	4.53	5.74	4.97
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	4.89	4.50	3.47
Sorghum	Cwt	6.18	8.21	5.75
Potatoes	Cwt	5.68	8.79	7.86
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	25.90	36.80	33.80
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	136.00	176.00	172.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	113.00	122.00	122.00
Onions	Cwt	4.47	13.30	14.40
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	90.90	94.40	88.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	96.60	99.30	93.80
Cows.....	Cwt	46.60	54.50	49.20
Calves.....	Cwt	123.00	113.00	108.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	25.50	23.80	3/
Lambs.....	Cwt	97.00	99.60	3/
Hogs	Cwt	42.40	52.70	50.70
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	21.40	18.20	17.60
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.400	0.450	0.450

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments. 2/ Insufficient sales to establish a price.

3/ Mid-month price not estimated.

**COLD STORAGE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, and cheese. Butter stocks were down 13 percent from last month and down 23 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 3 percent from the previous month but down 1 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 5 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 32 percent from last month but up 27 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on September 30, 2008 were down 1 percent from the previous month but up 18 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 1 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 2 percent from last month but up 22 percent from September 30, 2007.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Sept. 30, 2007	Aug. 31, 2008	Sept. 30, 2008
1,000 Pounds			
Butter.....	240,254	213,744	186,152
Cheese, total natural	820,445	880,276	839,744
Eggs, frozen.....	17,696	20,800	21,786
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,166,345	1,386,878	1,375,763
Chicken	654,889	755,405	760,545
Turkey	504,913	629,236	613,638
Fruits, frozen	1,200,027	1,125,683	1,111,297
Fruit Juices, frozen	928,824	1,638,402	1,477,900
Vegetables, total frozen....	2,340,089	2,059,079	2,442,373
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,079,967	1,126,710	1,185,051
Meats, total red.....	991,750	947,709	980,738
Beef, total frozen	486,724	433,984	444,505
Pork, total frozen.....	484,934	486,597	507,317

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Stocks in space owned or leased by the Armed Forces are excluded. Food stocks held under bond are included in the storage data.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

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